



Aerospace / Defense

Mesa
works.



Secure. Scalable. Strategically Positioned.

With more than 1,200 aerospace and defense (A&D) companies, Phoenix-Mesa metro is home to some of the biggest names in A&D such as Boeing, General Dynamics, Honeywell Aerospace, Iridium, and Northrop Grumman. With a robust supply chain, critical assets, and ideal geographic location, Mesa hosts major facilities for some of the world's top A&D companies and has become a premier hub for A&D activity. Arizona's A&D industry employs more than 62,400 people, generates \$5.9 billion in total exports, and \$29.5 billion in economic impact to Arizona according to the Arizona Commerce Authority.

#3

Leading US location
for aerospace
investment

PwC, 2025

Mesa Offers:



35-square-mile developing
aerotropolis surrounding
Mesa Gateway Airport



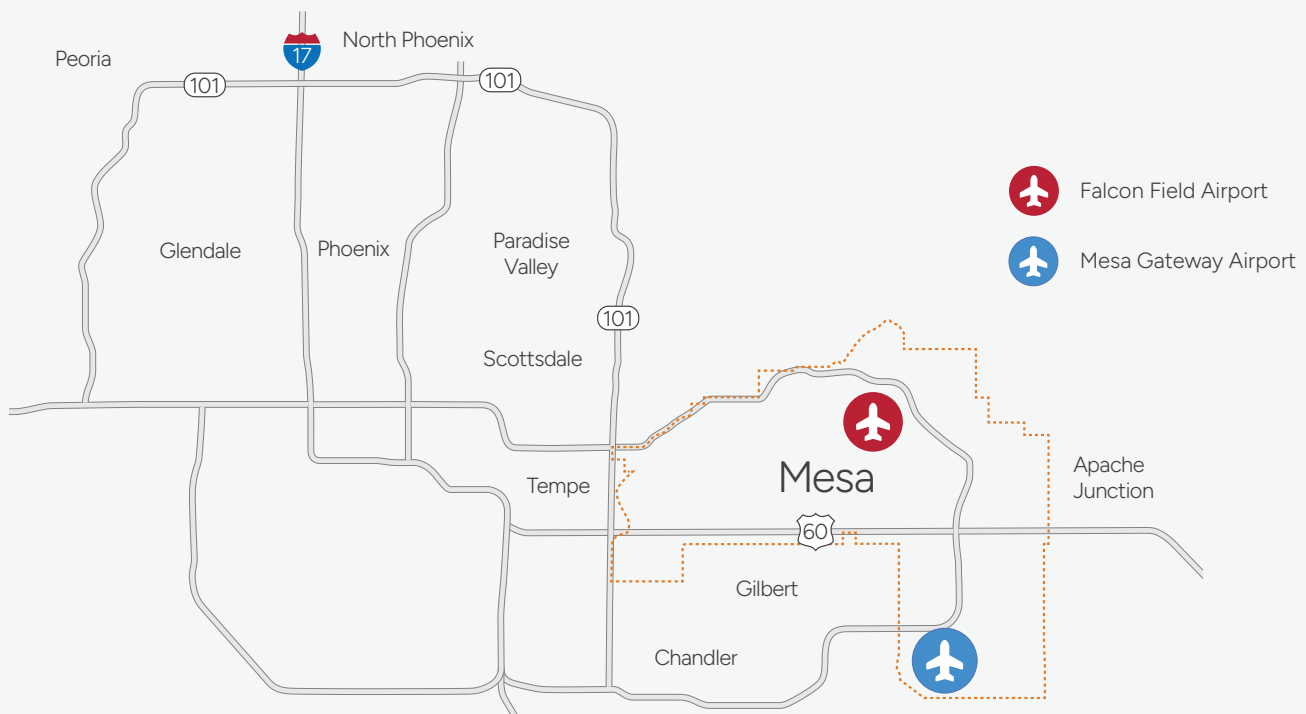
Advanced aerospace and
defense manufacturing
district surrounding Falcon
Field Airport



Abundant, highly skilled
workforce



One of the nation's
strongest aerospace/
defense clusters



Featured Aerospace & Defense



Mesa Aerospace & Defense

- Able Aerospace
- Aerocast International
- Amphenol Aerospace
- ATP Flight School
- Aviation Performance Services
- Aviatize
- Blue Road Enterprises
- The Boeing Company
- CAE Oxford Aviation Academy
- CAVU Aerospace
- CAU Aeronautical University
- Cessna
- Cunningham Aviation
- Embraer
- FlightSafety International
- Garmin
- Gulfstream
- Hadrian
- Heliponents, Inc.
- Inter-Coastal Electronics
- KP Aviation
- Lockheed Martin
- MD Helicopters
- Nammo Defense Systems
- Northrop Grumman
- Precision Heli-Support
- Rosotics
- SEEOP
- Serastar
- Silverado Cable
- Southwest Heliservices
- Task Aerospace
- Times Microwave Systems

- Top Aces
- Trident Military Systems
- Unical
- Valkyrie Aero
- Van Horn Aviation
- Virgin Galactic
- WireMasters

Arizona Aerospace & Defense

- Airobotics
- Ascent Aviation Services
- Aviage Systems
- BAE Systems
- Barnes Aerospace
- Bombardier
- Comtech EF Data
- Duralar Technologies
- General Dynamics
- Hexcel
- Honeywell Aerospace
- Iridium
- Kinetx Aerospace
- Northstar Aerospace
- Paradigm Precision
- Parker-Hannifin
- Raytheon
- Robertson Fuel Systems
- Sargent Aerospace & Defense
- Securaplane
- Standard Aero
- UTC Aerospace Systems
- Viasat

Arizona is a growing innovation hub, geographically situated between our existing operations in Southern California and New Mexico. [Locating in Mesa] will allow us to accelerate progress from conceptual design to production to final assembly at scale as we capitalize on the many advantages Mesa and the Greater Phoenix area offer.

Swami Iyer
President, Virgin Galactic Aerospace Systems



Low Taxes & Business Friendly Programs

Low / No Taxes – Arizona's corporate and individual tax rates are among the lowest in the nation. Arizona has no franchise tax, no business inventory tax, and no estate tax. Mesa has no primary property tax.

Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) #221, administered by the City of Mesa, allows FTZ-qualified companies to bring merchandise into the U.S. and into the FTZ for the purpose of storage, repacking, display, assembly, or manufacturing and may be duty exempt (on re-exports), duty deferred (on imports), or have inverted tariffs, meaning imported inputs may have a lower tariff once manufactured into a finished product. Companies may qualify for up to a 71.4% reduction in state real and personal property taxes.

City of Mesa Opportunity Zones are part of a federal program designed to spur investment by providing tax benefits to investors who hold their investment between five to ten years.

Mesa Military Reuse Zone provides a number of tax incentives to businesses that locate at Gateway Airport and provide aviation or aerospace services, or are engaged in manufacturing, assembling, or fabricating aviation or aerospace products. The incentives include a significant reduction in property taxes of up to 71.4% for up to five years for capital intensive companies, construction sales tax rebate, and job tax credits.

Northrop Grumman's Mesa-based operation produces the world-renowned Bushmaster® family of medium caliber cannons for the U.S. military and its allies.



Industry Highlights

#1

concentration for guided missile and space vehicle manufacturing.

Lightcast, 2024

Top 5

concentration for aerospace & defense manufacturing.

Lightcast, 2024

Top 5

for largest employment in A&D manufacturing.

Lightcast, 2024

\$14.5B

in department of defense contracts in fiscal year 2023.

62,454+

A&D Workers.

Lightcast, 2024



Educated Workforce/ Talent Pipeline

Arizona State University (ASU) is consistently ranked in the top 40 engineering programs in the country and provides many aerospace and engineering focused programs including Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Industrial Engineering. In addition, Mesa-based educational institutions offer numerous aerospace and aeronautical engineering programs as well.



ASU Polytechnic Campus

Bachelor's degree programs

- Air Traffic Management
- Air Transportation Management
- Applied Science (Aviation)
- Professional Flight
- Unmanned Aerial Systems

Master's degree programs

- Human Systems Engineering (Aviation)
- Aviation Management and Human Factors

CAE Oxford Aviation Academy – Falcon Field Airport

- Airline and Business Pilot Training Program

California Aeronautical University – Falcon Field Airport

- Associate of Science in Aviation Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Rotorcraft Helicopter Program

Chandler-Gilbert Community College – Williams Campus

Certificate programs

- Aircraft Maintenance Technology
- Aircraft Maintenance Technology-Airframe
- Aircraft Maintenance Technology-Powerplant
- Aviation Sheetmetal Bootcamp
- Certified Flight Instructor Instrument Airplane Rating
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Associate degree programs

- Aircraft Maintenance Technology
- Aircraft Maintenance Technology-Airframe
- Aircraft Maintenance Technology-Powerplant
- Airway Science Technology, Flight Emphasis
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT)

- Aviation Maintenance
- Ground School and Flight Training
- Systems for Pilots

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University – Mesa Gateway Site

Associate degree programs

- Aeronautics
- Aviation Business Administration
- Aviation Maintenance
- Engineering Fundamentals
- Technical Management

Bachelor's degree programs

- Aeronautics
- Aviation Business Administration
- Aviation Maintenance
- Communication
- Emergency Services
- Engineering
- Engineering Technology
- Homeland Security
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Project Management
- Safety Management
- Technical Management
- Unmanned Systems Applications

Master's degree programs

- Aeronautics
- Aerospace Engineering
- Aviation and Aerospace Sustainability
- Aviation Maintenance
- Business Administration in Aviation
- Engineering Management
- Human Factors
- Human Security and Resilience
- Information Security and Assurance
- Leadership
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Management
- Management Information Systems
- Occupational Safety Management
- Project Management
- Systems Engineering
- Unmanned Systems

Mesa Community College

- Additive Manufacturing Processes
- Aerospace Manufacturing Technology
- Automation and Robotics Technology
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Machinist Apprenticeship
- Electronics Technology
- Electrical/Mechanical Drafting
- Welding Technology

University of North Dakota, School of Aerospace Sciences

- Phoenix Flight Training Center

Mesa's Airports

Mesa boasts two airports, Mesa Falcon Field Airport and Mesa Gateway Airport. Each offers a diverse portfolio of aerospace, defense, aviation, and other high-tech industries, plus the MRO, cargo, and R&D operations to support those sectors. In addition, the Phoenix area is home to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, the 8th busiest airport in the U.S., which served more than 52 million passengers in 2024.

Mesa Gateway Airport (AZA)

Gateway Airport is the heart of the Mesa Gateway Area. Gateway Airport, a convenient alternative to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, provides commercial service to nearly 50 destinations throughout the U.S. and Canada.

With three runways measuring 10,400, 10,200, and 9,300 feet, Gateway Airport can accommodate the largest aircraft in the world. Gateway Airport has on-site U.S. customs services, an FAA-contract air traffic control tower, and various buildings and hundreds of acres available for development.

Gateway Airport is a cost-effective, global business location for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul companies. Companies such as FlightSafety International, Gulfstream, Virgin Galactic, Cessna, Embraer, CAVU Aerospace, and Able Aerospace Services have chosen Gateway Airport because

of its proximity to available labor, education facilities, and economic advantages. Businesses at Gateway Airport can take advantage of unique incentives and programs such as the Military Reuse Zone and the Foreign Trade Zone.

Falcon Field Airport (MSC)

Falcon Field Airport is consistently ranked among the top five most active general aviation airports in the U.S. with more than 300,000 operations annually. The airport has an FAA air traffic control tower and two runways of 5,100 and 3,800 feet to accommodate a wide variety of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

More than 130 A&D businesses are on airport or adjacent to the airport including Boeing, Northrop Grumman, MD Helicopters, Nammo Defense Systems, Serastar Technologies Corporation, Valkyrie Aero, and Van Horn Aviation.

Falcon Field Airport is ideal for aircraft components/systems manufacturing; aircraft/helicopter maintenance, repair, and overhaul uses; aircraft restoration; aircraft testing; aircraft sales; corporate aviation departments; and fixed-base operators. In addition, with helipads and nearby desert areas for practice maneuvers, Falcon Field is especially suited for helicopter operations and manufacturing.



Boeing's Mesa facility has been a cornerstone of Arizona's aerospace community for more than four decades. As the production hub for the AH-64 Apache and home to advanced fabrication centers for wiring, composites, and metals, Mesa plays a central role in rotorcraft advancements while creating jobs, skills, and long-term community value. Boeing's strong partnerships with the City, local industry, educational institutions, and its engaged workforce make Mesa an ideal place for Boeing to grow and innovate."

Christina Upah

Vice President of Attack Helicopter Programs and Senior Mesa Site Executive, The Boeing Company



Major Development Areas/Opportunities



AZLabs is prime location for UAV/UAS focused companies looking for a secure facility to conduct R&D and other highly sensitive activities. As a former Air Force Research Laboratory, AZLabs maintains Department of Defense security accreditations to support a broad range of proprietary projects including experiments, prototype evaluations, and distributed test and training with access to a highly skilled, tech-centric workforce.

AZLabs is adjacent to Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona State University Polytechnic campus, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Mesa. This strategic location offers tenants proximity to existing restricted airspace and military operations areas (MOAs), via three 10,000-foot runways, taxiways, aircraft parking, and access to fuel for U.S. Government and military patrons.

SkyBridge Arizona

Located at Gateway Airport, SkyBridge Arizona is developing a 363.5-acre, mixed-use development that will include 1.35 million square feet of aeronautical development, 2.19 million square feet of non-aeronautical development, and 270,000 square feet of commercial development. Several buildings have been completed, with more under construction. SkyBridge will be adding a new taxiway with direct runway access and new hanger space. It is expected to become a premier destination for aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing companies.

Elliot Road Technology Corridor® (ERTC™)

ERTC, located in the northeastern portion of the Mesa Gateway Area, offers hundreds of acres of shovel-ready sites with robust infrastructure and a streamlined entitlement process – perfectly suited for A&D technology companies. Apple, Amazon, Meta, and Google all have major operations either built or under construction in ERTC.

Pecos Advanced Manufacturing Zone

The Pecos Zone, located in the southern portion of the Mesa Gateway Area, is well suited for large, heavy manufacturing operations. Major manufacturers such as CMC Steel, Bridgestone, FUJIFILM, CRM Rubber, ZF TRW, and Mitsubishi Gas Chemicals have operations in the zone due to the large amounts of available land and extensive infrastructure. The western portion of the zone also has rail access and sits within the EO Floating Zone, which provides an expedited entitlement process.

Falcon District

Falcon District has more than 24 acres available at Falcon Field Airport for aviation-related development with direct runway/taxiway access and an additional 63 acres adjacent to the airport for non-aviation use. The business district surrounding the airport has available properties to meet the needs of the smallest startup or an established company requiring thousands of square feet.

Built for Aerospace
and Defense.

Mesa works.

The City of Mesa Office of Economic Development works closely with clients throughout all phases of the development process and looks forward to helping you build and grow your company in Mesa.

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SelectMesa.com



ACCREDITED
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION
International Economic Development Council

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